

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus to plasma coat a stent, comprising:
a mandrel supporting a stent;
a first plasma member circumscribing the mandrel, the first plasma member being grounded and the mandrel being supported as a cantilever from the first plasma member;
a second plasma member circumscribing the first plasma member; and
a plasma generating source in communication with the second plasma member.
2. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first plasma member is a first hollow tubular body in which the mandrel is positioned, and wherein the second plasma member is a second hollow tubular body in which the first hollow tubular body is positioned.
3. (original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the first and second hollow tubular bodies include perforations.
4. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the stent is positioned in the center of the first hollow tubular body.
5. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the stent does not contact the first plasma member during the coating process.
6. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first plasma member is a hollow tubular body in which the mandrel is positioned and wherein the second plasma member is a coil element wrapped around the ~~first~~ hollow tubular body.

7. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the plasma generating source is a radio frequency generating source or a microwave generating source.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, additionally including a first plate member in communication with the first plasma member; a second plate member positioned over the first plate member and in ~~communication~~ communication with the second plasma member; and an insulator disposed between the first and second plate members to electrically insulate the plate members.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the mandrel extends from the first plate member into the first plasma ~~element~~ member and through an opening formed in the second plate member.

10. (previously presented) An apparatus to coat an implantable medical device, comprising:
a first tubular member;
a source that supplies a polymerizable monomer gas to the first tubular member;
a second tubular member in which an implantable medical device can be placed, the second tubular member being positioned within the first tubular member and the second tubular member being electrically isolated from the first tubular member; and
an energy source in communication with the first tubular member.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the tubular members include bodies having holes disposed therein.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the energy source is configured to create plasma within the first tubular ~~body~~ member.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the second tubular ~~body~~ member is grounded.

14. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the implantable medical device is a stent and wherein the apparatus further comprises a mandrel extending within the second tubular member for supporting the stent.

15. (withdrawn) A method of forming a coating for an implantable medical device, comprising:

(a) placing the an implantable medical device within the apparatus of Claim 10, the apparatus being positioned in an enclosed chamber;

(b) supplying a plasma-polymerizable monomer or a blend of monomers in a gaseous form into the chamber; and

(c) initiating a plasma to the to cause the polymerization of the monomer to form a coating on the implantable medical device.

16. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, additionally including grounding the second tubular member.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the plasma generating source generates gaseous plasma to modify a surface of the stent.

18. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the plasma generating source generates gaseous plasma to form a polymer film on a surface of the stent.

19. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 18, further comprising a plasma-polymerizable monomer that is in a gaseous form and is inside the second plasma member.

20. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 19, further comprising a source that supplies the polymerizable monomer gas to the second ~~tubular~~ plasma member.

21. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the plasma generating source generates gaseous plasma to induce polymerization of a plasma-polymerizable monomer on a surface of the stent to form a polymer film.

22. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the plasma-polymerizable monomer is in a gaseous form and is inside the second ~~tubular~~ plasma member.

23. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 22, further comprising a source that supplies the polymerizable monomer gas to the second ~~tubular~~ plasma member.

24. (previously presented) An apparatus to plasma coat a stent, comprising:
a first plasma member circumscribing a stent mandrel, the first plasma member being grounded;
a second plasma member circumscribing the first plasma member; and
a plasma generating source in communication with the second plasma member, wherein the plasma generating source generates gaseous plasma to modify a surface of the stent by forming a polymer film on the surface of the stent.

25. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 24, further comprising a plasma-polymerizable monomer that is in a gaseous form and is inside the second plasma member.

26. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein forming the polymer film on the surface of the stent includes inducing polymerization of the plasma-polymerizable monomer on the surface of the stent to form the polymer film.

27. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the plasma-polymerizable monomer is in a gaseous form and is inside the second plasma member.

28. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 27, further comprising a source that supplies the polymerizable monomer gas to the second ~~tubular~~ plasma member.

29. (new) The apparatus of Claim 9, further including a third plate member, wherein the second plate member is adjacent to, and in communication with a proximal end of the second plasma member and the third plate member is adjacent to, and in communication with a distal end of the second plasma member, a substantial portion of the stent mandrel is disposed between the second and third plate members, and the insulator is disposed between the first and second plate members.

30. (new) The apparatus of Claim 24, further comprising:
a third plasma member circumscribing a second stent mandrel, the third plasma member being grounded, and
a fourth plasma member circumscribing the third plasma member,
wherein the plasma generating source is in communication with the second and fourth plasma members, and
wherein the plasma generating source is configured to generate gaseous plasma to modify surfaces of each of the first and second stents by forming a polymer film on the surfaces of the first and second stents.

31. (new) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the mandrel is supported as a cantilever from an end of the first plasma member.